REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 4-13. Claims 4-8 are currently amended. Claims 1-3 and 14-19 are cancelled. Claims 4-7 and 10-14 are withdrawn from consideration.

The amendment to claim 4 is supported in original claim 2. The remaining claim amendments are editorial and self-explanatory.

No new matter is added.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8-9 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hadvary et al. (U.S. 4,598,089).

Claims 1-3, 8-9 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadvary et al. in view of Softly et al. (*Compositions of Representative SALATRIM Fat Preparations*, J. Agric. Food Chem. (1994) vol. 42, pp. 461-467).

Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

1. The Present Invention

The present invention is directed to a lipase inhibitor containing as the active ingredient LUU type and UUL type triacylglycerols. That is, asymmetric triacylglycerols comprised of L which represents a long chain saturated fatty acid having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms, and U which represents an unsaturated fatty acid having from 16 to 22 carbon atoms.

2. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (Hadvary et al.)

Hadvary et al. discloses a lipase inhibitor, however the structure is completely different

from the LUU type and UUL type triacylglycerols of the present invention. The compounds of Hadvary et al. have neither a carboxyl group structure directly attached to a long carbon chain (a fatty acid structure), nor a glycerin skeleton. Accordingly, the compounds of Hadvary et al. do not have a triacylglycerol structure wherein fatty acids are attached to the three OH groups of glycerin. Hadvary et al. therefore do not disclose or suggest the presently claimed lipase inhibitor containing LUU type and UUL type triacylglycerols.

Accordingly, the present invention is not disclosed or suggested by the compounds of Hadvary et al. and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is overcome.

3. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (Hadvary et al. in view of Softly et al.)

As discussed above, the compounds of the present invention are not disclosed or suggested by Hadvary et al. Softly et al. does not remedy the deficiencies of Hadvary et al., and thus the present claims are free of the prior art.

The Examiner argues that the disclosure in column 3, line 63 of Hadvary et al. discloses triolein. However, Hadvary et al. discloses a test meal, not a lipase inhibitor. Hadvary et al. discloses in column 3, lines 20 to 33 as follows:

> The digestion of fats (triglycerides) taken in with the food is effected in the intestine by pancreas lipase. The pancreas lipase cleaves the primary ester bonds of triglycerides, whereby free fatty acids and 2-monoglycerides results as products. These products can then be resorbed and utilized. By inhibiting the pancreas lipase the aforementioned cleavage of the food fats and therewith also the resorption and utilization of these substances is partially prevented; the triglycerides are excreted in unchanged form.
>
> The inhibition of pancreas lipase by the compounds of formula I can be demonstrated experimentally by registering tritrimetrically the oleic acid liberated in the cleavage of triolein by pig pancreas lipase.

Accordingly, it is clear that the triolein cited by the Examiner is in fact a test meal. Therefore, the disclosure of Hadvary et al. does not suggest the presently claimed lipase inhibitors.

These are completely different from the triacylglycerols used in the present invention. Softly et al. does not disclose or suggest the optimization of long chain saturated fatty acids and long chain unsaturated fatty acids. It should also be noted that the fat of Softly et al. itself has a low absorbability. Meanwhile, the triacylglycerols of the present invention suppress the absorption of coexisting fats.

Accordingly, the combination of Hadvary et al. and Softly et al. do not suggest the LUU type and UUL type triacylglycerols of the present invention as lipase inhibitors.

Claims 8 and 9 are therefore not disclosed or suggested by Hadvary et al. in view of Softly et al.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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